

STORY 30.

THE IDEAL OF JUSTICE IN ISLAM.

It is the greatest glory of Islam that it has taught justice between man and man irrespective of their position in society. No other religion approaches it in this respect. Islamic history teems with instances of great Kings standing shoulder to shoulder with their meanest subjects before a judge appointed by themselves.

1. (Hazrat) Omar bin Ass was the conqueror of Egypt. In many other societies he might have enjoyed exceptional privileges and he and his sons could have insulted people with impunity. But not so in Muslim society where high and low were on the same level before the law. Once (Hazrat) Abdullah a son of (Hazrat) Omar struck a poor man without cause. The Caliph (Hazrat) Omar caused him to be struck by the man whom he had wronged. (Hazrat) Omar too was present and was in silence watching this scene which was unprecedented in the whole history of the world and could not do anything to save his son from this humiliation.

2. In the time of Caliph (Hazrat) Omar Christians and Jews enjoyed the same rights as the Muslims.

Once a member of the clan of Bakr Bin Wail murdered a Christian. The matter was reported to (Hazrat) Omer, who after due inquiry ordered the murderer to be handed over to the relatives of

the murdered man. This order was at once carried out. The Islam of the murderer could not save him from the consequences of his act.